

**Fact Sheet #4**  
**April 2003**

## **FORMER INTERNATIONAL LIGHT METALS (ILM) FACILITY, LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION**

**TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA**



### *Testing for Chemicals in the Groundwater*

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Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



*The former ILM property in Torrance, seen from the corner of Western and 190th*

This fact sheet tells you about the testing of the groundwater at the former International Light Metals (ILM) property in Torrance. A cleanup team is testing for chemicals, heavy metals, and other contamination that probably came from the former metals manufacturing operations at the facility.

We invite you to fill out and return the attached survey by May 6, 2003. This survey will help us find out your concerns so that we can keep you informed and involved throughout the investigation and any proposed cleanup plans.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Our role is to oversee the investigation and possible cleanup of the site. The cleanup team is made up of the Lockheed Martin Corporation, their contractor, and our agency.

Lockheed Martin Corporation which owned the property, is paying for the investigation and will pay for any cleanup that needs to be done. They have hired contractors to perform the actual work.

#### **The site was used for manufacturing and processing metals**

The site of the former ILM facility is at 19200 S. Western Avenue, bordered by West 190<sup>th</sup> Street to the north and the former Douglas Aircraft facility to the east. The 67-acre site was an industrial metal processing and manufacturing facility from the beginning of World War II until 1992. During this period it changed ownership several times.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

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Normal operations included manufacturing and processing aluminum and titanium products.

After 1992 the site remained undeveloped until 1997, when Fremont Associates, Inc. bought the property and built five warehouse and distribution buildings on the site.

## **Chemicals and wastes from the metals operations got into the soil and groundwater**

As part of the manufacturing and processing operations, chemicals such as fuels, chlorinated solvents, acids, and caustics were stored and used at the facility. Wastes from these operations included spent solvents, acids and caustics, wastewater containing these chemicals, and sludges and other solid waste.

We believe that these operations were the source of chemicals found in the soil and groundwater at the site. The main chemicals are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as a cleaning solvent called TCE (trichloroethene), and heavy metals such as chromium.

None of the groundwater is currently used for drinking water.

## **They cleaned up the soil and are now testing the groundwater for chemicals**

In February 1996 our agency directed the property owners to clean up the soils at the site that contained chemicals and metals. They removed and/or treated the contaminated soil at the same time that they tore down the old industrial buildings in 1995 and 1996. Our agency determined that the soil removal and/or treatment took care of the soil contamination and that no further soil cleanup is needed.

However, there is still contamination in the groundwater. The cleanup team has been testing the groundwater at the site since August 1994. In 1999 we started testing the groundwater downstream of the groundwater flow, at the adjacent property to the east. This is the former Douglas Aircraft facility, the property owned by Boeing Realty Corporation.

The cleanup team found TCE in amounts up to 6.9 parts per million (ppm). The amount considered safe for drinking water is 0.005 ppm. Another chemical found in the groundwater was PCE (tetrachloroethene), at amounts up to 0.42 ppm. The amount of PCE considered safe in drinking water is 0.005 ppm. We also found hexavalent chromium (also called chromium 6), at amounts up to 1.4 ppm. The amount of hexavalent chromium considered safe in drinking water is 0.05 ppm.

The cleanup team also found VOCs and petroleum hydrocarbons in wells that are upstream of the groundwater flow. This may mean there are chemicals coming from other sources in the area besides the ILM facility.

## **More monitoring wells put in**

Based on what the cleanup team has found so far, our agency requested the former property owners to conduct a study to help us find cleanup options. They began the study by putting in eight more offsite monitoring wells. These new wells, along with the current onsite wells, will be sampled once every three months for one year.

They are sampling the water at three depths: at about 75 feet deep, at 110 to 120 feet deep, and at 145 to 150 feet deep.

They took the first two sets of samples in September and December 2002. They will take the third and fourth sets in March and June 2003.

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The cleanup team will use the sampling results to find out more about how the contamination has affected the downstream water zones. This will help us decide if the groundwater needs to be cleaned up. If so, the cleanup team will develop the most effective way to clean it up, and present the proposal to you for your review and comment. The wells will continue to be used for long-term groundwater monitoring during and after the cleanup.

No one is currently at risk from the groundwater contamination. However, the sampling results will be used to determine if there may be risks to people in the future as a result of the contamination.

### **More information at the library and our agency's office**

We invite you to learn more about what is happening at the former ILM site. All of the reports and other information are at the Torrance public library at 3301 Torrance Boulevard in Torrance. The library business hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. You can also call them at (310) 618-5959 if you have any further questions regarding their hours of business. We also have this information at our agency's office at 1011 North Grandview Ave in Glendale, California. Please call Jone Barrio in the File Room at (818) 551-2952 to make an appointment. The File Room hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **Who to call at our agency**

If you have questions or comments about the former International Light Metals (ILM) facility, please call or email either of these two people at our agency (the Department of Toxic Substances Control):

Chia Rin Yen  
Project Manager  
(818) 551-2182  
Email: [cyen@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cyen@dtsc.ca.gov)

Leticia Hernandez  
Public Participation Specialist  
(714) 484-5488  
Email: [lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Media Inquiries**

Jeanne Garcia  
Public Information Officer  
(818) 551-2176  
Email: [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS**

*TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Ms. Leticia Hernandez at (714) 484-5488.*



State of California  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Leticia Hernandez  
Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630

**Survey Questionnaire Enclosed**

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***Para información en español por favor comuníquese con  
Leticia Hernández al numero (714) 484-5488.***



State of California  
Department of Toxic Substances Control



Former International Light Metals (ILM) Facility  
19200 So. Western Avenue, Torrance CA 90501

## COMMUNITY SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

You may also send us your survey responses by email, to [lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov)

1) How long have you lived or worked in the area?

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 6-12 years ☐ 13-20 years ☐ 21 or more years

2) Prior to reading the letter, were you aware of the ground water investigation at the facility?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, where did you acquire your prior knowledge about the ground water investigation?

☐ Newspapers ☐ Neighbors ☐ Relatives

☐ Other (Please specify source): \_\_\_\_\_

3) What is your current level of interest in this facility?

☐ None ☐ Low to moderate ☐ Moderate to high

4) Do you have any specific concerns about this facility? If so, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Have you had any contact with local, state or other officials regarding this facility?

☐ YES →→ If YES, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NO \_\_\_\_\_

6) What languages are spoken in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

If you named a language besides English, do you feel that future communication to community members regarding this site should be written in this language? ☐ YES ☐ NO

7) Do you currently attend meetings in your community on issues that are of concern to you?

☐ Regularly ☐ Sometimes ☐ Almost Never

→ → → Please continue on the backside → → →

**8) Are you interested in receiving information about the investigation and future work?**

☐ YES →→ If YES, what is the best way?  
☐ NO

☐ Fact Sheets or Letters

☐ Community Meetings

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**9) Can you suggest any other person or groups that might be interested in receiving information about this site or the work proposed for it?**

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**10) Please let us know of any other comments or questions.**

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**11) If you are interested in being added or taken off the mailing list for information related to the former ILM facility, please check the appropriate line and return to the address below.**

☐ Please place me on the mailing list for future materials on this site.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
stamp  
here

**Please mail this document to:**

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Attn: Leticia Hernandez, Public Participation Specialist

Please fold the letter with the address showing, place stamp on the right-hand side and seal, thank you.